

INFORMATION REPORT

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Kaesŏng Branch of the Chosŏn Sangsa

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1. [redacted] the Kaesŏng branch of the Chosŏn Sangsa¹ was in a two-story Korean type building² near Koryŏ Bridge in Koryŏ-dong, Kaesŏng, about 1.5 kilometers east of the Kaesŏng railroad station. Sub-branches were at Kŏch'ong-ni (N 37-53, E 126-28) (BS-7795) and Sinup.
2. There were approximately 25 South Korean traders dealing with the Kaesŏng branch each month. [redacted] the staff of the Kaesŏng branch was cut. Prior to that time there had been 15 employees at the branch office.
3. Staff members of the Kaesŏng branch were as follows:
 - a. Chief: KIM Nak-yong (6855/3157/3057), [redacted] who had been chief of the Hungmin Sangsa (5281/3046) and the Kaesŏng branch, respectively, [redacted]
 - b. Deputy Chief: YI Han-chŏng (2621/3352/2973), alias YI Sun-ku (2621/5291/0046), [redacted] who had been deputy chief of the Hungmin Sangsa and the Kaesŏng branch, respectively, [redacted]. YI, a native of Kaesŏng, was graduated from the Songdo Middle School, Kaesŏng. He became a member of the North Korean Labor Party (NKLP). [redacted] YI worked as a clerk at the Hwanghae-do Transportation Company in Kaesŏng. [redacted] he became a member of the South Korean Labor Party (SKLP).
 - c. Courier Superintendent: PYŎN Tŏk-chu (6708/1795/0719), alias CHŎNG (fnu), [redacted] and a native of Yŏnbaek-gun (N 37-50, E 126-16) (BS-5990). He [redacted]

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was graduated from the Songdo Middle School. [] PYŎN fled to North Korea and served in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. [] he joined the North Korean Army as an officer and was injured in battle. [] PYŎN became liaison officer between the Kaesŏng branch and the two sub-branches. 50X1-HUM

- d. Storehouse Section Chief: KIM Sŏng-yŏl (6855/2052/3525), [] an elementary school graduate, and a native of Kaesŏng. A member of the NKLP, he had worked at the Hŭngmin Sangsa and the Kaesŏng branch, respectively, [] 50X1-HUM

4. Staff members of the Koch'ong sub-branch³ were as follows: 50X1-HUM

- a. Chief: YI Sŏk-in, [] an elementary school graduate, and a native of Seoul. YI, a member of the NKLP, was a businessman in Seoul [] 50X1-HUM
- b. Chief of Accounts: CHANG (fnu), [] a native of Seoul, and a member of the NKLP. 50X1-HUM
- c. Chief of Communications: KIM Yŏng-mok (6855/3938/ ?), [] and a native of Yŏnbaek-gun. KIM, an elementary school graduate, was a member of the NKLP. [] KIM was transferred to this sub-branch from the Sinup sub-branch.⁴ 50X1-HUM

5. Staff members of the Sinup sub-branch were as follows: 50X1-HUM

- a. Chief: KIM Chin-kuk (6855/3791/0948), [] and a member of the NKLP. KIM, a native of Kaesŏng, was graduated from the Songdo Middle School. 50X1-HUM
- b. Chief of Communications: KIM Sun-sŏng (6855/5293/5110), approximately [] and a member of the NKLP. KIM, a native of Kaesŏng, is an elementary school graduate. KIM was not allowed to resign [] 50X1-HUM

Background of Establishment of the Kaesŏng Branch of the Chosŏn Sangsa

6. [] the Hŭngmin Sangsa was established at Yŏhyŏn-ni (N 38-01, E 126-28) (BT-7810) by the North Korean Ministry of Internal Affairs to maintain supply and courier routes into South Korea. In the same year agencies of the company were established at Tongduch'ŏn-ni (N 37-56, E 127-03) (CT-2900), P'och'ŏn (N 37-53, E 127-13) (CS-4394), and Ch'ongdan (N 37-58, E 125-56) (YC-5806). At least one SKLP member was stationed in each office. [] the Hŭngmin Sangsa became the Yŏhyŏn branch of the Chosŏn Sangsa. There were at least 30 South Korean traders registered with the ROK Ministry of Commerce for trade with these agencies. At the outbreak of war [] these trading routes were cut off. 50X1-HUM

7. [] sea routes were established between the following Korean ports: 50X1-HUM

West Coast

- a. Inch'ŏn
- b. Kunsan (N 35-59, E 126-43) (BQ-9484).
- c. Mokp'o (N 34-47, E 126-23) (BP-6052).
- d. Pusan
- e. Haegu (N 38-02, E 125-43) (YC-3813).

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f. Chinnamp'o (N 38-44, E 125-24) (YC-0989).

g. Sinŭiju

h. Antung

i. Dairen

East Coast

j. Chumun-ni (N 37-54, E 128-50) (DS-8593).

k. Mukhojin-ni (N 37-32, E 128-07) (ES-1055).

l. P'ohang (N 36-02, E 129-22) (EQ-3387).

m. Changjŏn (N 38-44, E 128-12) (DT-2987).

n. Wŏnsan

o. Hungnam

p. Sinp'o (N 37-50, E 126-08) (BS-4890).

q. Ch'ongjin

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9. [] the Yŏhyŏn branch of the Chosŏn Sangsa was reestablished as the Kaesong branch through the efforts of KIM Kon-chu (6855/1696/2691), KIM Ung-pok (6855/2019/4395), KIM Sung-ho (6855/2110/6964), and PAK Chung-su (2613/0112/3178). These men had previously traded with the Yŏhyŏn branch, in collaboration with YI Han-chong and YI Sok-in.

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1. [] Comment. [] the Chosŏn Sangsa was renamed the Samil Sangsa (0005/0001.0794/0057).

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Comments

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2. This building was the former residence of KIM Ki-ho (6855/1015/3185) and PAK Nam-hui (4101/0589/3556) who, in [] were living in Pusan as refugees.

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3. [] the Koch'ong-ni sub-branch was to be moved to Naengjon-maul (sic).

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4.  the Sinup sub-branch was to be moved to Hungch'onp'o (N 37-49, E 126-31) (BS-8188).  the town of Sinup was renamed Towon-ni but was still referred to as Sinup.

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